

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Crab Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan Working Group Meeting

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will hold a working group meeting for the Crab Creek (Montgomery County) water quality improvement plan on Tuesday, March 13, 2014. The Agricultural Working Group and the Residential/Urban Working Group will meet from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Christiansburg Town Hall, 100 East Main Street in Christiansburg.

The purpose of the meeting is to gather input from stakeholders on: the types and amounts of agricultural, residential, and urban practices needed to reduce sediment and bacteria pollution in Crab Creek to a level that meets water quality goals; how stakeholders can collaborate on a coordinated approach for achieving water quality goals.

Fecal bacteria levels (e.g. *E. coli*) in Crab Creek exceed state water quality standards designed to protect primary contact recreation (e.g. swimming, wading, kayaking, etc.). Additionally, Crab Creek does not meet Virginia's general standard for water quality, due to an excessive accumulation of sand, silt, and clay on the streambed that is harmful to aquatic life.

In response to these impairments, DEQ developed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for *E. coli* and sediment in Crab Creek in 2004. A TMDL describes the amount of pollution that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. The *Fecal Bacteria and General Standard TMDL Development for Crab Creek* document can be located on DEQ's website at: <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/portals/0/DEQ/Water/TMDL/apptmdls/newrvr/crabcr.pdf>.

Virginia's 1997 Water Quality Monitoring, Information, and Restoration Act (WQMIRA) directs the State Water Control Board (SWCB) to develop and implement a plan to achieve fully supporting status for impaired waters (§62.1-44.19:4 through 19:8 of the Code of Virginia). The Working Group meeting to be held on March 13th is part of the process for developing the water quality improvement plan (aka TMDL Implementation Plan) for Crab Creek.

Questions or information requests can be addressed to:

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In the case of inclement weather, please contact Diana Hackenburg for more information. If the meeting needs to be rescheduled, it will occur on Thursday, March 20 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Christiansburg Town Hall.